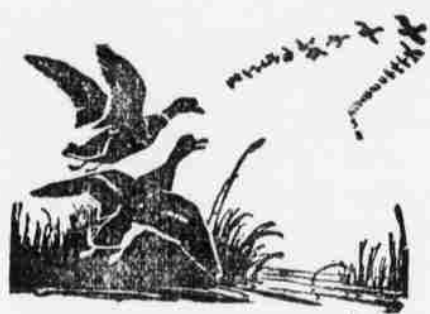


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The Birds Fly Southward

to avoid the cold. And well before the coming of the snow, the thrifty squirrel lays by a store of nuts. The bee remembers that the flowers will fade. All nature seems to sense the coming need. And man, alone, of all the living things, seems blissfully content to live Today as if Tomorrow's sun would never rise."

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IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By REV. F. B. FIZWATER, D. D.,
Teacher of English Bible in the Moody
Bible Institute of Chicago.
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LESSON FOR APRIL 4

EASTER LESSON.

LESSON TEXT—Luke 24:13-35.
GOLDEN TEXT—Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?—Luke 24:26.
PRIMARY TOPIC—The Story of a Wonderful Walk.
JUNIOR TOPIC—The Walk to Emmaus.
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—The Proofs That Jesus Rose From the Dead.
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Fact and the Meaning of the Resurrection.

I. Two Disciples Journeying to Emmaus (vv. 13-10).

1. Who they were. One was Cleopas (see v. 18); some think the other was Luke, whose modesty forbade him to give his name; but it is not definitely known. Why they were going we can only conjecture; perhaps they were only walking away from Jerusalem to relieve their anxiety and drown their sorrow. The ordeal through which they had passed left them somewhat stunned; they needed the physical exertion and quiet of the country to calm their nerves. They were sad (see v. 17).

2. What they talked about (v. 14). "All the things which had happened." Strange and wonderful things had taken place and they could not but commune together concerning them.

3. Jesus joins them (vv. 15, 16). It was while they communed together and reasoned about Jesus that he appeared to them. He never leaves those in doubt who sincerely seek the light; he promises to meet even with two or three who gather in his name (Matt. 18:20). Those gathered in his name have their heart toward him in love, and their talk is concerning him. If we would have Jesus draw near to us more frequently then let us more frequently commune together concerning him.

II. The Conversation on the Way. (vv. 17-27).

1. Jesus' question (v. 17). Though he was a stranger to them his question did not provoke resentment; there must have been something in his manner and tone which unlocked their hearts.

2. The disciples' answer (vv. 18-24). Though surprised that there should be a single man in the confines of Jerusalem unacquainted with the things which had recently come to pass, they spoke fully and freely of what they had communed about.

(1) It was concerning Jesus of Nazareth (v. 19). This Jesus was mighty in word and deed before God and the people. (2) Delivered, condemned and crucified by the chief priests (v. 20). (3) Shattered hopes of the disciples (v. 21). They had reposed their hope in him as the Redeemer of Israel. (4) Their bewilderment (vv. 22-24). The story of the women concerning the empty sepulchre reminded them of Christ's words that he would arise on the third day. A new hope seemed to be arising in their hearts, yet they were too timid to take their stand upon it. (5) Jesus expounding the Scriptures to them (vv. 25-27). He chides them for their unbelief of the prophetic Scriptures (v. 25). What sorrow and perplexity they would have escaped had they believed what God had recorded! Jesus showed them that what had happened was exactly what the Scriptures had foretold concerning the Messiah and that it behooved Christ thus to suffer and to enter into his glory.

III. The Lord Reveals Himself (vv. 28-35).

1. Nearing the end of the journey (vv. 28, 29). He made as though he would go farther, but they constrained him to abide with them. It would have been a great loss to them if he had not been "constrained."

2. Sitting together at the table (vv. 30, 31). His blessing of the bread and breaking it were so familiar that they knew him. Then, too, they may have seen the nailprints in his hands while he broke the bread. They now knew for a certainty that the Lord whom they had mourned as dead was alive and in their very presence. If we had eyes to perceive we could see Jesus daily walking and talking with us. What a different life would be ours if we would but see him!

3. The disciples convinced (vv. 32-35). They at once returned to Jerusalem and reported to the eleven what things were done and how the Lord had revealed himself to them in the breaking of the bread. They exclaimed, "The Lord is risen indeed!" May Christ come to every believer on this Easter occasion in such a way that we may know beyond the peradventure of a doubt that he is really alive!

Reaching the Top.

It is by attempting to reach the top by a single leap that so much misery is produced in the world.—Cobbett.

Keep Straight On.

The way to heaven: Turn to the right and keep straight on.—Spurgeon.

Be Wise.

Be wiser than other people if you can, but do not tell them so.—Earl of Chesterfield.

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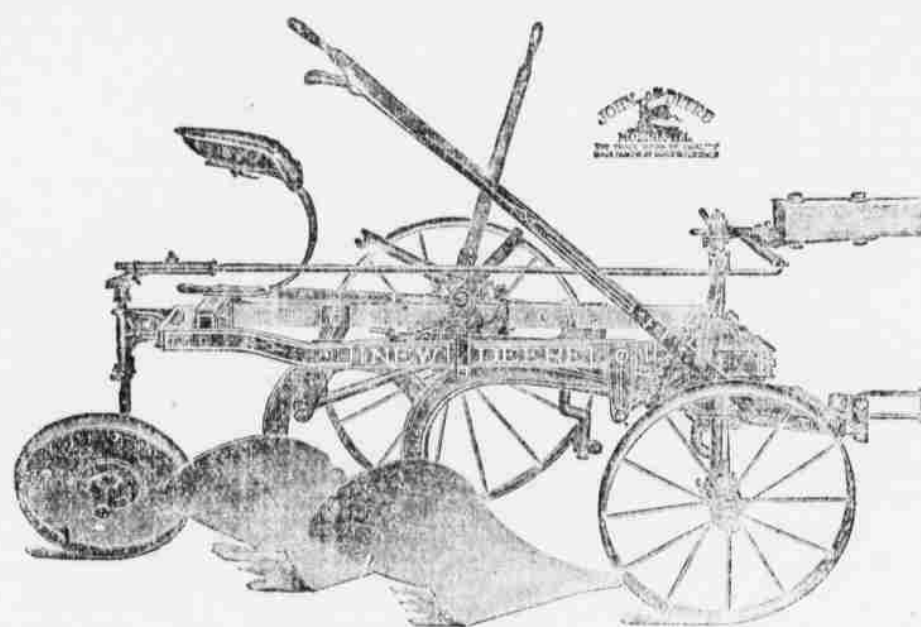
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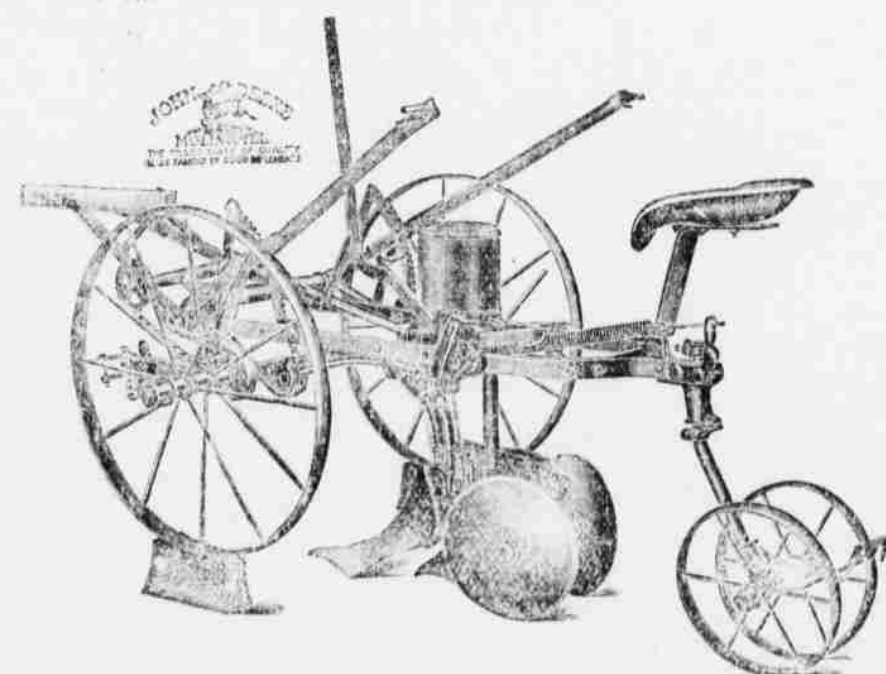
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